



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

August 2, 2020

A Word from Our Pastor

Last week we looked at the first two things that destroyed Samson's spiritual strength: SELF-INDULGENCE, and RESENTMENT. Today we conclude with the *third* thing that wrecked Samson's life was CARELESSNESS. When we're careless with our health, it weakens us. When we are careless with our money, it weakens us. When we are careless with our words ... does that ever get you into trouble? When we're careless with our time, it weakens us. When we're careless with our commitment, it weakens us. I mean, when you make a commitment and you fail to honor it. You promise to do something and you don't do it. Every time you break a commitment it weakens your life. Someone has said: *"You're only as strong as what you're committed to."* Samson made a horrible mistake, he compromised his convictions for convenience sake. It seemed to me, as I read the story, that his goal was, how close can I get to the fire and not get burned? How close to the cliff can I get without falling off? The best example of Samson's carelessness was in his relationship with Delilah in Judges 16. Delilah was woman number 3, but this one he was sure was the right one. But he is careless once too often. He kept playing with what he knew he shouldn't be playing with and finally he gave in. His lifestyle of SELF-INDULGENCE, RESENTMENT and CARELESSNESS finally weakened him and he gave in. These kinds of catastrophic failure do not happen overnight. It starts with little slippages and carelessness and a failure to keep basic commitments and habits like reading God's Word on a daily basis and doing the things that count in life. All of a sudden we wake up one morning to a rude awakening to find, "We've lost it all," because of SELF-INDULGENCE, RESENTMENT or/and CARELESSNESS. Here's one final spiritual commitment: To maintain our spiritual strength we must keep our commitments even when we don't feel like keeping them. Faithfulness in our commitments, is definitely the mark of spiritual maturity. Folks, we've must keep our commitments to God, to my mate, to my children, to my employer, or my employees, to all that I am accountable to. There's an old saying that says, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." To apply it here "You are only as strong spiritually as your weakest commitment."

What happened to Samson? Samson's life was a tragedy. The Champion became the clown. The superstar hit the skids. He lost his freedom, he lost his power, he lost his potential. It would be a tragic story if we left it there. But the Bible tells us when we read the rest of Chapter 16, that in prison he had a change of heart and said, "All right, God, I'm finally going to get serious with you. I'm finally going to get real and quit playing around." He recommitted his life to God. The Bible says God gave him a second chance. Samson's last day of his life was his greatest victory. It was

such a great victory that he's listed in "God's Hall of Fame of Faith" (Hebrews 11:32), the Who's Who of the Faith. After his greatest failure came his greatest victory when he got serious about his commitments. Unable to conquer himself, he was ruined by his own lusts. He stands as a tragic example of a man of great potential who lacked stability of character. Let's learn from his failures and not fall prey to Samson's three vices: SELF-INDULGENCE, RESENTMENT, and CARELESSNESS.

Let me close this two part devotion with a couple of actions points for us to consider...I think we need to ask ourselves a couple of questions: 1) What is the weak link in my life? 2) When am I going to do something about it?

James 1:21-22 ESV

²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Ministries/Services

We will be suspending all services, ministries, & events that use the facilities at this time. Please read our [Reopening Letter](#).

"Worship Live", Sundays at 10:45. To view, you can go to facebook.com/milanbaptist and click videos to view. If you are watching it LIVE, the video will show up as soon as you pull the page up.

"Call 2 Prayer", Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Our church family can tune in to Pastor & Lisa as they lead us in a time of prayer. To view, you can go to facebook.com/milanbaptist

Weekly Goal: \$8,135

Giving This Week: \$2,467

C4M Total to Date: \$876

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to "Milan Baptist Church" and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**.
- Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension
- Prayer for our nation and elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership, as they make decisions moving forward
- Families who are awaiting help or are in need
- Kathleen Spencer, diagnosed with cancer
- Noah's cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Emma Jane Hall, doctors found a solid lump and she is awaiting testing (near thyroid gland)
- Cliff Kuhn, recovering from a stroke
- Earl Cox, at home dealing with health issues
- Juliana (Dan & Norlaine Stange's daughter) and husband, Kanna, as they are expecting the arrival of their baby girl around the end of August and that the pregnancy will go well and the baby will be healthy
- Jerry DuBois, rebuilding strength
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- Pastor's sister, Gail, battling Stage 4 lung cancer, awaiting surgery for enlarged gallbladder
 - Gail's hip surgery was successful. Prayers needed as she recovers.
- Elli Robins, now in "maintenance" stage! She will receive treatments from home for the next year and a half
- Camp Barakel, following the cancelation of all summer/fall retreats and fire of barn.
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, Van Ormans, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

HEBREWS 4:12



"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

"ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY."

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year		
Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
August 2	Psalms 60-62	Romans 5
August 3	Psalms 63-65	Romans 6
August 4	Psalms 66-67	Romans 7
August 5	Psalms 68-69	Romans 8:1-21
August 6	Psalms 70-71	Romans 8:22-39
August 7	Psalms 72-73	Romans 9:1-15
August 8	Psalms 74-76	Romans 9:16-33
August 9	Psalms 77-78	Romans 10

Birthdays	Anniversaries
August 2 – Kristin Beck	August 2 – Jan & Jerry Austin and Mel & Alpha Ott
August 7 – Linda Jaarda	August 3 – Mike & Karen Phillips
August 9 – Elizabeth Bennett	August 4 – Kurt & Becky Heinold

Final Board Posting		
() = Seats available		
Deacon (3)	Trustee (3)	Church Treasurer
Chuck Bushart	Chuck Gates	Dave Gable
Adam Caballero	Clark Barton IV	
Tim Hewitt	Mitchell Blake	
	Roger White	

Christmas 4 Missions (C4M)

You can still donate! All donations will be divided up equally among our missionaries and sent out as a special Christmas gift. You can make note on your tithe envelopes or online if you want to designate any money toward C4M.

The church family is invited to the graduation open house of Emily Paschall on Sunday, August 2, 2020 from 1-6 p.m. The party will take place at The Old Mill in Dundee, MI. (242 Toledo St)

